

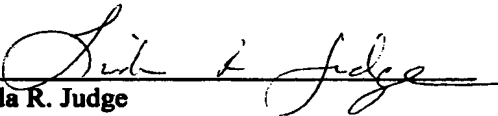
REMARKS

Applicants have cancelled Claims 8-9 and 55-56 and amended Claims 3-6, 10, 12-13, 17, 19-24, 31-32, 34-35, 45-46, 48-49, 51-52, 60-61, 63-64, 66, 68-69 and 72-73 in order to expedite prosecution on the merits. No new matter has been introduced and entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for examination on the merits. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any suggestions to place the application in even better condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

DLA PIPER RUDNICK GRAY CARY US LLP


Linda R. Judge
Registration No. 42,702

1200 Nineteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-2412
Telephone No. (202) 861-3900
Facsimile No. (202) 223-2085